

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - a) input means for inputting image data;
 - b) object detecting means for detecting an object
5 in the input image data from said input means;
 - c) measuring means for measuring a distance from
the object detected by said object detecting means to a
predetermined position; and
 - d) predetermined object detecting means for
10 detecting a predetermined object on the basis of an
output from said measuring means.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said predetermined object detecting means detects an
15 object whose distance to the predetermined position
falls within a predetermined range.
3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said input means comprises image pickup means for
20 picking up an image of an object via an optical system.
4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the
predetermined position is a position of said image
pickup means.
- 25 5. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said image pickup means comprises focusing control

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means for controlling focusing of said optical system,
and

wherein said measuring means measures the distance
from the object detected by said object detecting means
5 to the predetermined position on the basis of focusing
control information from said focusing control means.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising size detecting means for detecting a size of
10 the object detected by said object detecting means,

wherein said predetermined object detecting means
detects an object with a predetermined size on the
basis of an output from said size detecting means.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
15 said predetermined object detecting means comprises
setting means for setting a size of an object to be
detected.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
20 said input means comprises image pickup means for
picking up an image of an object via an optical system,
said image pickup means comprising zoom control
means for controlling said optical system to enlarge an
25 image, and

wherein said predetermined object detecting means
detects an object with the predetermined size on the

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basis of zoom control information from said zoom control means.

5 9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
said image pickup means comprises focusing control means for controlling focusing of said optical system, and

10 wherein said measuring means measures the distance from the object detected by said object detecting means to the predetermined position on the basis of focusing control information from said focusing control means.

15 10. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising output means for outputting a detection output from said predetermined object detecting means to an external apparatus.

20 11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein when said predetermined object detecting means detects a predetermined object, said output means outputs the detection result to said external apparatus.

25 12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image processing apparatus is incorporated into a monitoring camera.

13. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

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said measuring means uses control information for controlling said optical system of said image pickup means.

5 14. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said predetermined object detecting means uses control information for controlling said optical system of said image pickup means.

10 15. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 a) image pickup means having an optical system;
 b) object detecting means for detecting an object in image data picked up by said image pickup means;
 c) control means for controlling said optical
15 system of said image pickup means; and
 d) predetermined object detecting means for detecting a predetermined object on the basis of an output from said object detecting means and an output from said control means.

20 16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said predetermined object detecting means detects an object within a predetermined distance range from said image pickup means.

25 17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said control means controls focusing of said

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optical system, and

wherein said predetermined object detecting means uses focusing control information from said control means.

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18. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising size detecting means for detecting a size of the object detected by said object detecting means,

wherein said predetermined object detecting means
10 detects an object with a predetermined size on the basis of an output from said size detecting means.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein
15 said control means controls zooming of said optical system, and

wherein said predetermined object detecting means uses zooming control information from said control means.

20 20. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising output means for outputting the detection result to an external apparatus when said predetermined object detecting means detects a predetermined object.

25 21. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said image processing apparatus is incorporated into a monitoring camera.

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22. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

- a) inputting image data;
- b) detecting an object in the input image data;
- 5 c) measuring a distance from the detected object to a predetermined position; and
- d) detecting a predetermined object on the basis of the measurement result.

10 23. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

- a) inputting image data from image pickup means having an optical system;
- b) detecting an object in the input image data;
- 15 c) controlling said optical system of said image pickup means; and
- d) detecting a predetermined object on the basis of the detection result in the object detection step and the control result in the control step.

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